

## UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but this is my one aim: to forget everything that's behind, and to strain every nerve to go after what lies ahead. I press on toward the finish line, where the prize waiting for me is the upward call of God*  
**IN KING JESUS.**

(Philippians 3:13-14)

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### ***Proclaim the Coming Arrival of King Jesus***

And lo! there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name is **Simeon**. And this man is just and pious, anticipating the consolation of Israel, and holy spirit was on him." And **he was apprised by the holy spirit that he would not be acquainted with death ere he should be acquainted with the Lord's Christ**. And he came, in the spirit, into the sanctuary, and as the parents are bringing in the little Boy Jesus, for them to do according to the custom of the law concerning Him, he also receives Him, clasping Him in his arms. And he blesses God, and said, Now art Thou dismissing Thy slave, O Owner, According to Thy declaration, in peace, **For my eyes perceived Thy Salvation, Which Thou dost make ready suiting the face of all the peoples, A Light for the revelation of nations, And the Glory of Thy people Israel.**" (Luke 2:25-32 CLV [bold added])

And there was **Hannah**, a prophetess, a daughter of Penuel, out of the tribe of Asher (she is advanced in her many days, living with a husband seven years from her virginity, and she is a widow till she is eighty-four years) who does not withdraw from the sanctuary, with fasts and petitions offering divine service night and day." **And in the same hour, standing by, she made a response to God, and spoke concerning Him to all who are anticipating redemption in Jerusalem.**" (Luke 2:36-38 CLV [bold added])

And in those days cometh **John the Baptist**, proclaiming in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, 'Reform, for come nigh hath the reign of the heavens,' for this is he who was spoken of by Isaiah the prophet, saying, 'A voice of one crying in the wilderness, **Prepare ye the way of the Lord**, straight make ye His paths.' (Matthew 3:1-3 YLT [bold added])

The next day **he** (John the Baptist) **saw Jesus coming to him and said, Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is He on behalf of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'** ... He must increase, but I must decrease. (John 1:29-30; 3:30 NASB [bold added])

What do these three people—Simeon, Hannah, and John the Baptist—have in common? They were raised up by the spirit of God to proclaim the arrival of King Jesus, the Messiah of Israel and the Savior of the world. Both Simeon and Hannah (Anna) were in the temple awaiting the arrival of the infant Yeshuah, the very one the prophets of Israel had proclaimed would come to rescue Israel from their plight, just as Yahweh had delivered Israel out of Egypt in what is known as the *exodus*. The time of Israel's second exodus had come as they looked upon the infant who was Emmanuel, *God with us*. But there was much more, for this Jesus would also be a light to the nations and the lamb who would take away the sin of the entire world or, if you will, the sin of humanity. When it came time for Jesus to make His public appearance as the Lamb of God, it was John who was raised up to proclaim the arrival of the one for whom Israel had longed. John was just a voice—a voice to announce the Savior's arrival, to make straight the way for the Lord. Once Jesus came on the scene and was baptized by John, John's work was done. He had to decrease for there was only one man to be seen and heard—Jesus, the Son of God.

Just a cursory review of scripture reveals one principle: when God is about to act in a very deliberate and open way that will lead to monumental change for a people or nation or even the entire human race, He makes sure that people know that one of His appointed times has arrived and that it is His doing.

For more on the times, see: *Appointed Times* — <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/tuc/tuc438.pdf>

In the days of Noah, that is, the days leading up to the great flood and the judgment of God on all the ungodliness and evil that had overcome the world, Noah and Methuselah preached of judgment and the need to repent and turn back to God. In the days of Pharaoh, when the sons of Israel were slaves in Egypt, the Lord raised up Moses to stand up to Pharaoh and proclaim: *Let My people go!* And so, through the acts of God, Israel was released from bondage in order to meet Yahweh at Sinai in Arabia with the intent of them becoming a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. Other examples could be cited but the take-away is that at every major turning point in the history of mankind and the world, God has made His plan known to those who have ears to hear and eyes to see, and He has done this through people, ones generally called *prophets* because they spoke the mind and heart of God.

Throughout the new testament, the writers, including Jesus Himself, referred to the voice of the prophets as recorded in Hebrew scripture. As recorded in Acts, Peter preached two sermons to the men of Israel as he reminded them that God had spoken by the mouth of His holy prophets. This fact is so obvious that a detailed list of citations is hardly necessary.

The point is that God speaks through His people prior to one of His major appointed times as He breaks into the history of the world. Of course, the most significant one is the first or inaugural arrival of God's Son. Up to that point, there was no single event in world history that matched His arrival and subsequent death on the cross, followed by His resurrection, ascension, and glorification at the right of God the Father. This one glorious, appointed time was unbelievably monumental in the course of not only the history of humanity but also of all creation. **The cross and the empty tomb stand at the fulcrum of all history from the first day of Adam to the last day or consummation of the ages to come.** At this point in history, God launched the plan that has always been in His heart, even before the foundation of the world. When God's Son rose from the grave in a spirit-animated body (note: not disembodied), something phenomenal occurred (words cannot express it!). Jesus' resurrection launched a new creation, starting with a new man, which Paul called a *new creation*. Based on the ancient prophets, John the apostle expanded this to a new heaven, a new earth, and New Jerusalem. The one sitting on the throne declared: *Behold, I am making all things new.*

Dear people of God, there is another appointed time that is just as great, if not more so for us who are alive and remain—it is the second arrival or consummational arrival of King Jesus when He is revealed to the world once again. But this time, not in reference to sin but in reference to glory, the new creation, and heaven coming to earth, or as I see it, God's realm or dimension manifesting as heaven and earth come together in the way God always intended it to be. Heaven and earth were always meant to be like two interlinked parts making a whole.

Now, here is some truly good news. It is time to proclaim and announce the second arrival of King Jesus. We are at the end of our present age and Jesus is coming once again to rescue humanity and the world by introducing the new-creation age in which He sums up all things in heaven and on earth, subjecting all to Himself. As the new creation begins to openly and manifestly blossom, so will a people who have been resurrected and/or transformed into His glorious image. This is our expectation. This is the appointed time in world history. Let us proclaim to the world—***King Jesus is coming very soon!***